

to distribution other  
than as noted in  
margin.  
April 4, 1959  
11:30 a.m. *MC* *CH*

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT

The President telephoned and said he had been through the papers on Geneva Nuclear Test negotiations very carefully. The draft letter to Macmillan, the President said, was really what he and Macmillan more or less agreed informally at Camp David so Macmillan may think the letter is a little redundant, but the President said on the other hand since it refers to the note, the President thought it didn't hurt to repeat what they had said verbally.

On the draft to Khrushchev, the President said he made a few little corrections to get a little more conciliatory tone without weakening the letter. The President said the first two paragraphs were all right. In the third paragraph, the President changed the first sentence to read: "...security interests of all parties, and we believe...". The President put a period after the word "confidence", crossing out the remainder of that sentence and adding a new sentence: "Therefore, no basis for agreement is now in sight." The President changed the first sentence of the fourth paragraph to read: "In my view, these negotiations must not be permitted completely to fail." In the second sentence of the fourth paragraph, the President changed it to read: "... I believe there is a way in which ..."

On the second page of the draft to Khrushchev where the draft read "... then let us take ...", the President changed the language to read: "... then I propose that we take ..."

On the last page of the draft to Khrushchev, in the first sentence of the last paragraph, the President eliminated the word "surely" and substituted: " I trust that one of these ... ".

The President said other than the above, to go ahead and send them both out.

The President then added that in the letter to Macmillan, it should be "Dear Harold" and closed with "With warm regard, as ever, Ike".

The President said he had talked with Secretary Dulles who had some suggestions to make on the President's speech for this morning. Mr. Herter said he planned to call the Secretary a little later to bring him up-to-date on the NATO meetings, and in this connection, Mr. Herter said he hoped to see the President on Monday.

The discussion

*Copy of letter to Khrushchev  
sent to S/S & S/S  
5/5 & 5/5*



The discussion then turned to Germany and the necessity of adopting some kind of step-by-step policy leading to the ultimate objective of uniting Germany. Mr. Herter said he had had a very serious talk with von Brentano this morning and von Brentano is very embarrassed. He has cancelled his other engagements here and is going directly back to Germany in order to talk to Adenauer before the latter gets away on leave. Mr. Herter said what von Brentano is going to try to do in the next week is to get us a position which will allow us to make an offer of a step-by-step solution. Mr. Herter said in the meeting with von Brentano we were taking the position that we had more faith than they themselves did. Mr. Herter said it was obvious that what Adenauer and the Christian Democrats were scared of was that in a reunified free election the opposition Socialist party in West Germany would form a coalition with certain East Germany parties and throw the Christian Democrats out of office. The President said if they get a true free reunification, then they have to take their chances on politics.

The President said his own idea is this. We, of course, don't know how long this modus vivendi would exist between the two Germans not really as a true confederation but working together with a common council. The President said we must never forget that anything we can do that opens up a real avenue between these two sides of Germany sets up a tremendous attraction; they are all the same people and they don't want to be apart; we should do everything we can to let nature take its course. Mr. Herter said he thought the Germans will come up with a scheme for a joint council to serve as a forum for discussion of mutual problems. The President said this council would have no powers at first, but that if they can do something like this, we could he felt go ahead pretty well with some good prospects for progress.



C. A. / L.

Christian A. Herter